

EMS Question of the Month

**Is there an EMT-I-to-P
transition course
currently be taught?**

See answer on page 2



St. Joseph's Hosts Bi-Annual Regional Leadership Conference



Phil Dickison
Associate Director, Certification
Manager

The Bureau of Emergency Medical Services (BEMS) held its bi-annual Regional Leadership Conference on March 29, 2006, at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center. Representatives from the four designated regions of the state and Bureau staff were in attendance.

Will Humble, Acting Bureau Chief, kicked off the meeting with an update on BEMS' ongoing projects and

activities, which included EMS Week and the SHARE Program.

Several BEMS managers presented information on topics such as practical exam audits, e-learning, rulemaking, the Statewide EMS and Trauma System Survey, Trauma Registry Data, air ambulance rules, and Emergency Medical Services for Children.

Participants were given the opportunity to ask questions and voice concerns from their respective regions.

Guest speaker Phil Dickison from NREMT gave a presentation on the new computer based testing (CBT) that will take effect on January 1, 2007.

The CBT will replace the initial written exam for EMTs. He explained how the new CBT will function and how it will affect EMS educators, students, and the Bureau. He covered cost and registration, logging into the program, registering EMS programs into the system and other pertinent topics related to CBT.

Krista Anheluk, ADHS EMS Manager, said, "It is a shift in how we've been doing business, but Computer-Based Testing will be a great benefit to our EMS community, and ultimately, to the most important customer, the public."

One of the positive outcomes of switching to CBT is the rapid turnaround

of test results. With CBT, NREMT exam results will be available the next business day, versus four to six weeks later. This benefits the anxious candidate wanting to work, and EMS providers, that will be able to fill vital EMS positions much more quickly.

The transition to CBT will also provide an increase in testing flexibility. Exams can be scheduled around a convenient time for each candidate and in some circumstances, can be scheduled to be taken on weekends or in the evenings. In Arizona, there are three testing centers; one in Mesa, one in Glendale, and one in Tucson. Future test centers to be established in Arizona are in Flagstaff, Lake Havasu, Sierra Vista, and Yuma.

NREMT is working very hard on making the transition to CBT as smooth as possible. The latest information is available on their website at www.nremt.org. They are also in the process of producing an educational CD, which will be available soon.

For more information and details regarding the conference or CBT, contact your Council Members or the Bureau. The next regional leadership conference will be held in October 2006. Further details and updates will be posted in upcoming newsletters and on the BEMS website.

Location and Regional Contact Information:

Will Humble
Acting Bureau Chief

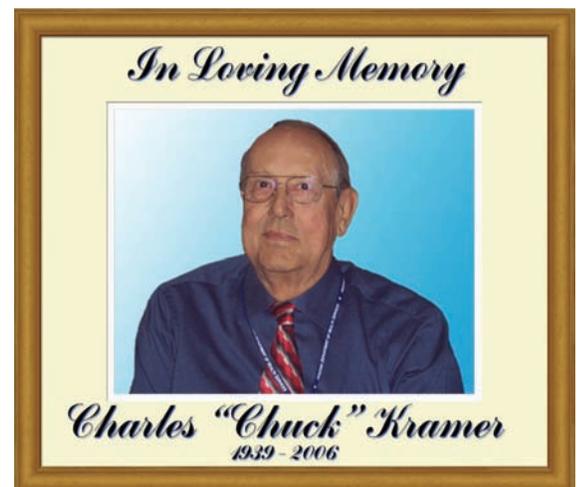
150 North 18th Avenue
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Phoenix, AZ 85007
(800) 200-8523
www.azdhs.gov/bems

We are proud to announce the establishment of the **Charles Kramer Memorial Scholarship Fund**

Donations to the fund may be made to the Southeast Arizona EMS Council (SAEMS) in Chuck's memory. SAEMS will form a committee to manage the fund to help Emergency Medical Services personnel with their educational needs. Donations should be mailed to:

SAEMS
PMB 321
6890 E. Sunrise Dr.
Tucson, AZ 85750

Additional information may be obtained at: www.saems.net
Phone: 520-529-1450 Fax: 520-529-2369



Air Ambulance Rules Approved, Effective April 8th

On February 7, 2006, the Governor's Regulatory Review Council (GRRC) unanimously approved two ADHS rulemakings related to regulation of air ambulances. The first rulemaking repeals the old rules for air ambulances in 9 A.A.C. 13, Articles 10 –12. The second rulemaking adopts new rules for air ambulance service licensing and air ambulance registration in 9 A.A.C. 25, Articles 7 and 8 and revises the timeframes rule in 9 A.A.C. 25, Article 12. Both rulemakings are effective April 8, 2006.

ADHS is finalizing the new applications and related forms for air ambulance service licensure and air ambulance registration and plans to make the applications available on the ADHS website at <http://www.azdhs.gov/bems/ambulance.htm>. The Notices of Final Rulemaking were published in the *Arizona Administrative Register* on March 3, 2006, and are available for viewing on the ADHS website at http://www.azdhs.gov/diro/admin_rules/final06.htm. An unofficial copy of the new rules for air ambulance service licensing and air ambulance registration is available at http://www.azdhs.gov/bems/ambul-pdf/newrules_unofficial.pdf.

For additional information concerning the new rules, please contact Edward Armijo at (602) 364-3156 or armijoe@azdhs.gov.

Practical Exam Audits

The next time you are in a practical exam, you may notice a representative from the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services (Bureau). The Bureau has begun to conduct random practical exam audits throughout the state. The purpose of the audits is to ensure that students are being trained and tested according to the NREMT guidelines.

EMS Coordinators will be conducting the practical exam audits on an announced or unannounced basis. They will merely be observing and will not be interjecting during any process of the audit.

The Bureau will be basing their audit on the NREMT standards for practical examinations which can be viewed on the NREMT website at: <http://www.nremt.org>.

For additional information or questions regarding the practical exam audits, please contact Michelle Johnston, Training and Base Hospital Program Manager at (602) 364-3152 or johnstm@azdhs.gov.

Certification Notice

As a certified EMT in the State of Arizona, it is your responsibility to complete the required training courses in order to maintain your certification. Furthermore it is your responsibility to submit all required application materials to the Bureau, not your training instructor or employer's. You will be held accountable.

Quick Beats

Bureau of EMS News in Brief

New Substantive Policy Statement Clarifying that Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) Is Within the EMT-P Scope of Practice

Effective March 13, 2006, ADHS adopted a substantive policy statement to notify the public that ADHS considers continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) to be within the EMT-P scope of practice under A.A.C. R9-25-502. The new substantive policy statement, SP-076-PHS-EMS, is available on the ADHS website, under Division of Public Health Services at: http://www.azdhs.gov/diro/admin_rules/substantive.htm.

New Substantive Policy Statement on Combining Enrollees for the Didactic Instruction Portion of a Course

Effective March 1, 2006, ADHS adopted a substantive policy statement to allow a training program or ALS base hospital providing training as authorized under A.A.C. R9-25-210(C) to combine enrollees for the didactic instruction portion of a "course" as defined in A.A.C. R9-25-301 (A). The new substantive policy statement, SP-075-PHS-EMS, is available on the ADHS website, under Division of Public Health Services, at: http://www.azdhs.gov/diro/admin_rules/substantive.htm.

Update on Prehospital Drugs Rulemaking

The Prehospital Drugs Rulemaking Task Force met four times in January through March and considered four different versions of the draft rules for Control, Use, and Availability of Drugs in the Prehospital EMS Setting ("the Prehospital Drugs Rulemaking"). Through those meetings, ADHS and the Task Force were able to reach consensus on the contents of the Prehospital Drugs Rulemaking, with the exception of the requirement to maintain each agent within a stable temperature range that ensures the integrity of the agent, as provided by the official compendium, as defined in A.R.S. § 32-1901, or the manufacturer's or distributor's labeling.

ADHS intends to have Revision 4 of the draft rules considered at the Medical Direction Commission and Emergency Medical Services Council meetings on April 21. Revision 4 is available on the ADHS website at http://www.azdhs.gov/diro/admin_rules/prehospdrugs.htm.

ADHS is also now drafting an economic impact statement (EIS) to accompany the regular rulemaking portion of the Prehospital Drugs Rulemaking (for 9 A.A.C. 25, Articles 1, 2, and 10). Once a draft EIS is completed, ADHS will solicit comments on the draft EIS through e-mail and an announcement on the BEMS What's New page, which is available at <http://www.azdhs.gov/bems/new.htm>. The draft EIS will be made available on the ADHS website at http://www.azdhs.gov/diro/admin_rules/prehospdrugs.htm.

If you have any questions or comments about the Prehospital Drugs Rulemaking, please contact Sarah Harpring at harpris@azdhs.gov or (602) 542-1513.

Answer to EMS Question of the Month

At this time we do not have an EMT-I-to-P transition course that is in effect. The Bureau is currently working on the draft rulemaking for such a course.

If you have further questions regarding the EMT-I-to-P transition course please contact Michelle Johnston, Training and Base Hospital Program Manager at (602) 364-3152 or johnstm@azdhs.gov.